

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (previously presented): A method for converting a three-party telecommunications connection, which is switched via a public communications network, between two subscriber lines and one of a further subscriber line and an operator's position, the three-party telecommunications connection being routed via a telecommunications switching office to which the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position is connected, into a two-party telecommunications connection between the two subscriber lines, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating setup, via the telecommunications switching office, and after reception of a request originating from the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position, of a new direct telecommunications connection between the two subscriber lines, wherein the telecommunications switching office requests one of two further telecommunications switching offices to which the two subscriber lines are respectively connected to set up the new telecommunications connection in accordance with a selection which is made as a function of a tariff model which forms a basis of a billing system; and

releasing, after a successful setup of the direct telecommunications connection, existing sections of the three-party telecommunications connection which is routed via the telecommunications switching office, between the two subscriber lines and the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position.

Claim 5. (previously presented): A method for converting a three-party telecommunications connection as claimed in claim 4, the method further comprising the step of:

connecting the two subscriber lines, between which the new direct telecommunications connection is set up, to a common telecommunications switching office.

Claim 6. (previously presented): A method for converting a three-party telecommunications connection as claimed in claim 4, the method further comprising the step of:

receiving, via the telecommunications switching office which is requested to set up the new telecommunications connection, at least one of a uniquely defined ringing signal and a call number of the second subscriber line from the telecommunications switching office which accepts the new telecommunications connection and to which the second subscriber line of the two subscriber lines is connected.

Claim 7. (new): A method for converting a three-party telecommunications connection, which is switched via a public communications network, between two subscriber lines and one of a further subscriber line and an operator's position, comprising:

routing the three-party telecommunications connection via a telecommunications switching office to which the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position is connected;

initiating setup, via the telecommunications switching office, and after reception of a request originating from the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position, of a new direct telecommunications connection between the two subscriber lines, wherein the telecommunications switching office requests one of two further telecommunications switching offices to which the two subscriber lines are respectively connected to set up the new telecommunications connection in accordance with a selection which is made as a function of a tariff model which forms a basis of a billing system; and

releasing, after a successful setup of the direct telecommunications connection, existing sections of the three-party telecommunications connection which is routed via the telecommunications switching office, between the two subscriber lines and the one of the further subscriber line and the operator's position, to establish a two-party telecommunications connection between the two subscriber lines.